

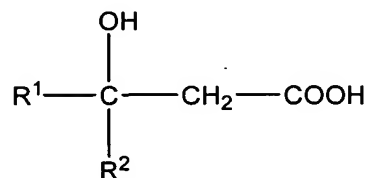
## IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 (Original): An indicator material for assessing body odor comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

a substance (A) which is a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1)

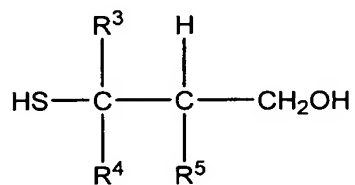


wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons;  $\text{R}^2$  is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons, and the total number of carbons in the formula (1) is 10 or less;

a substance (B) which is a derivative of  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, wherein an atom(s) or an atomic group(s) is introduced to a hydroxyl group and/or a carboxylic group of a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the formula (1);

a substance (C) which is an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the following formula (2):

Formula (2)



wherein  $R^3$  is a hydrogen atom or methyl group;  $R^4$  is an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbons; and  $R^5$  is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, the total number of carbons in the formula (2) is 8 or less; and

a substance (D) which is a derivative of an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position, wherein an atom(s) or an atom group(s) is introduced to a mercapto group and/or a hydroxyl group of an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2).

Claim 2 (Original): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 1, wherein the indicator material for assessing body odor contains the substance (A) and/or the substance (B).

Claim 3 (Original): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 1, wherein the indicator material for assessing body odor contains the substance (C) and/or the substance (D).

Claim 4 (Original): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 1, wherein the indicator material for assessing body odor contains the substance(s) (A) and/or (B) and the substance(s) (C) and/or (D).

Claim 5 (Original): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 4, wherein the indicator material for assessing body odor contains the substance (A) and the substance (C).

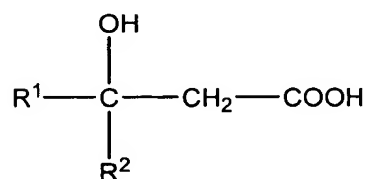
Claim 6 (Original): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 4, wherein the indicator material for assessing body odor contains the substance (B) and the substance (D).

Claim 7 (Original): An indicator material for assessing body odor according to claim 5, wherein the weight ratio of the substances (C) and (A) (substance (C):substance (A)) is 1:10 to 1:1,000.

Claim 8 (Original): A method of assessing body odor using as an index at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

a substance (A) which is a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1)

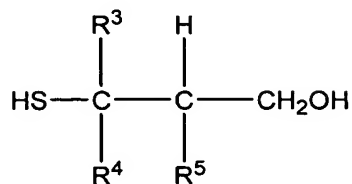


wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons;  $\text{R}^2$  is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons, and the total number of carbons in the formula (1) is 10 or less;

a substance (B) which is a derivative of  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, wherein an atom(s) or an atomic group(s) is introduced to a hydroxyl group and/or a carboxylic group of a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the formula (1);

a substance (C) which is an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the following formula (2):

Formula (2)



wherein  $\text{R}^3$  is a hydrogen atom or methyl group;  $\text{R}^4$  is an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbons; and  $\text{R}^5$  is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, the total number of carbons in the formula (2) is 8 or less; and

a substance (D) which is a derivative of an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position, wherein an atom(s) or an atom group(s) is introduced to a mercapto group and/or a hydroxyl group of an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2).

Claim 9 (Original): A method of assessing body odor according to claim 8, wherein an indicator material comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of the substances (A), (B), (C) and (D) is used.

Claim 10 (Original): A method of assessing body odor according to claim 8, wherein the substance (A) and/or the substance (B) is used as an index(es).

Claim 11 (Original): A method of assessing body odor according to claim 8, wherein the substance (C) and/or the substance (D) is used as an index(es).

Claim 12 (Original): A method of assessing body odor according to claim 8, wherein the substances (A) and/or (B) and the substances (C) and/or (D) are used as indexes.

Claim 13 (Original): A method of assessing body odor according to claim 12, wherein the substance (A) and the substance (C) are used as indexes.

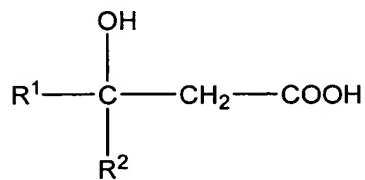
Claim 14 (Original): A method of assessing body odor according to claim 12, wherein the substance (B) and the substance (D) are used as indexes.

Claim 15 (Original): A method of assessing body odor according to claim 13, wherein an indicator material in which the weight ratio of the substances (C) and (A) (substance (C):substance (A)) is 1:10 to 1:1,000 is used.

Claim 16 (Original): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant using as an index(es) at least one member selected from the group consisting of:

a substance (A) which is a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the following formula (1):

Formula (1)

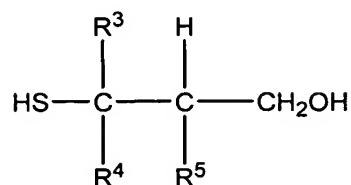


wherein  $\text{R}^1$  is an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons;  $\text{R}^2$  is a hydrogen atom or an alkyl having 1 to 4 carbons, and the total number of carbons in the formula (1) is 10 or less;

a substance (B) which is a derivative of  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid, wherein an atom(s) or an atomic group(s) is introduced to a hydroxyl group and/or a carboxylic group of a  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid compound represented by the formula (1);

a substance (C) which is an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the following formula (2):

Formula (2)



wherein  $\text{R}^3$  is a hydrogen atom or methyl group;  $\text{R}^4$  is an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbons; and  $\text{R}^5$  is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, the total number of carbons in the formula (2) is 8 or less; and

a substance (D) which is a derivative of an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position, wherein an atom(s) or an atom group(s) is introduced to a mercapto group and/or a hydroxyl group of an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2).

Claim 17 (Original): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 16, using an indicator material comprising at least one member selected from the group consisting of the substances (A), (B), (C) and (D).

Claim 18 (Original): AA method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 16, using the substance (A) and/or the substance (B) as an index(es).

Claim 19 (Original): AA method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 16, using the substance (C) and/or the substance (D) as an index(es).

Claim 20 (Original): AA method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 16, using the substances (A) and/or (B) and the substances (C) and/or (D) as indexes.

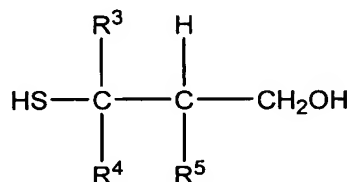
Claim 21 (Original): AA method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 20, using the substance (A) and the substance (C) as indexes.

Claim 22 (Original): AA method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 20, using the substance (B) and the substance (D) as indexes.

Claim 23 (Original): AA method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant according to claim 21, using an indicator material in which the weight ratio of the substances (C) and (A) (substance (C):substance (A)) is 1:10 to 1:1,000.

Claim 24 (Original): AA method of producing an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2) comprising a step of:  
incubating perspiration originated from a human in an environment with an oxygen concentration of 10 v/v% or less:

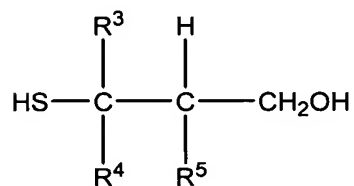
Formula (2)



wherein  $\text{R}^3$  is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group;  $\text{R}^4$  is an alkyl group having 1 to 3 carbons; and  $\text{R}^5$  is a hydrogen atom or a methyl group, the total number of carbons in the formula (2) is 8 or less.

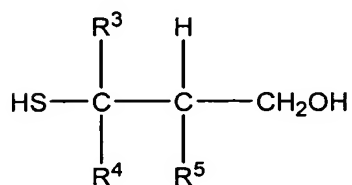
Claim 25 (Original): A method of assessing body odor comprising steps of:  
incubating perspiration originated from a human in an environment with an oxygen concentration of 10 v/v% or less to produce an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2); and  
using the produced compound as an index:

Formula (2)



Claim 26 (Original): A method of assessing effectiveness of a deodorant comprising steps of:  
incubating perspiration originated from a human in an environment with an oxygen concentration of 10 v/v% or less to produce an alcohol compound having a mercapto group at the 3-position represented by the formula (2); and  
using the produced compound as an index:

Formula (2)





Claim 27 (Original): A kit for assessing body odor of a human, wherein the kit for assessing body odor of a human includes a coloration reagent which reacts with  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid originated from perspiration of a human.

Claim 28 (Original): A kit for assessing body odor of a human according to claim 27, wherein the kit for assessing body odor of a human further includes a coloration reagent which reacts with fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid.

Claim 29 (Currently Amended): A kit for assessing according to claim 27-~~or~~ 28, wherein the reagent includes a compound having a hydrazino group or a diazomethyl group as an essential component.

Claim 30 (Original): A kit for assessing according to claim 29, wherein the reagent is 2-nitrophenylhydrazine or 9-anthryldiazomethane.

Claim 31 (Original): A method of assessing body odor of a human comprising steps of:

- a first step of extracting a mixture of  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid from perspiration of a human;
- a second step of adding the reagent to the mixture to exhibit color; and
- a third step of assessing the kind and/or strength of body odor from the color exhibited in the second step.

Claim 32 (Original): A method of assessing body odor of a human comprising steps of:

- a first step of extracting a mixture of  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid from perspiration of a human;
- a second step of separating  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid from the mixture;
- a third step of reacting said  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid separated in the second step with the reagent to exhibit color; and
- a fourth step of assessing the kind and/or strength of body odor from the color exhibited in the third step.

Claim 33 (Original): A method of assessing body odor of a human comprising steps of:

- a first step of extracting a mixture of  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid from perspiration of a human;
- a second step of separating the mixture into  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid and fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid respectively;
- a third step of reacting said  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid separated in the second step with the reagent to exhibit color;
- a fourth step of reacting said fatty acid having 12 or less carbons other than said  $\beta$ -hydroxycarboxylic acid separated in the second step with the reagent to exhibit color;
- a fifth step of assessing the kind and/or strength of body odor from each of the colors exhibited in the third and fourth steps.